

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 160

Introduced by Assembly Member Hadley

March 30, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 160—Relative to vehicular air pollution.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 160, as introduced, Hadley. Motor vehicle idling: children.

This measure would encourage motorists to not idle their motor vehicles near places where children congregate.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Idling of motor vehicles contributes to global
- 2 warming and is linked to asthma, decreased lung function, cardiac
- 3 disease, cancer, and other serious health problems; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Children’s lungs are still developing and are
- 5 especially at risk of developing health problems when they are
- 6 exposed to elevated levels of pollutants. Monitoring at schools has
- 7 shown higher levels of benzene, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, and
- 8 other air toxics during the afternoon hour coinciding with parents
- 9 picking up their children; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Asthma is the most common chronic illness among
- 11 children, the largest cause of school absences, and is the third
- 12 leading cause of hospitalization among children under the age of
- 13 15 years; and
- 14 WHEREAS, An idling car wastes about half a gallon of gasoline
- 15 per hour, and a gallon of burned fuel emits about 20 pounds of
- 16 carbon dioxide; and

1 WHEREAS, One minute of idling puts more carbon monoxide
2 into the air than smoking three packs of cigarettes; and

3 WHEREAS, Idling produces between 10 and 12 percent more
4 emissions than driving for the same amount of gas used due to
5 incomplete combustion and ineffective operation of the catalytic
6 converter; and

7 WHEREAS, Idling motor vehicles emit particulate matter,
8 nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide; and

9 WHEREAS, On a daily basis, Americans may be burning as
10 much as 3.8 million gallons of gasoline from voluntary idling,
11 resulting in about 40,000 tons of carbon dioxide. Annually, the
12 cumulative effect is the useless burning of 1.4 billion gallons of
13 gasoline and the emission of 13 million tons of carbon dioxide;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Most people waste one to two tanks of gas every
16 year by idling, and one hour of gasoline engine idle time equals
17 33 miles of driving; and

18 WHEREAS, A common myth is that idling is better than turning
19 the car on and off, but idling is actually bad for the car. It is better
20 to turn off the car if the driver is going to idle for more than 10
21 seconds because it takes about 10 seconds worth of fuel to restart
22 the car. This uses less gas, increases fuel efficiency, and is better
23 for the car; and

24 WHEREAS, An engine runs at less than ideal operating
25 temperature when idling, which causes water vapor to accumulate
26 in the exhaust system and leads to corrosion; and

27 WHEREAS, California prohibits school bus idling for any
28 amount of time at schools and within 100 feet of a school (Section
29 39640 of the Health and Safety Code and Section 2480 of Article
30 1 of Chapter 10 of Division 3 of Title 13 of the California Code
31 of Regulations); and

32 WHEREAS, At least 27 other states and the District of Columbia
33 have laws imposing restrictions on idling at schools; now,
34 therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
36 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages motorists to
37 not idle their motor vehicles near places where children congregate,
38 such as schools and parks; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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